>

Title: Need to take diplomatic measures to prevent the likely civil war in Sri Lanka.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the near battle situation and civil war situation available now in Sri Lanka, our friendly country in our neighbourhood. The clash between the armed forces and LTTE has been escalating day by day.

Hundreds of people have lost their lives due to hostile ethnic clashes in the Northern and the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. In Mullaithivu, due to air bombardment in civilian areas, a school was attacked and about 61 children have lost their lives. About a lakh of people have fled from the affected areas in the Jaffna peninsula to other parts of Sri Lanka due to this escalating violence. Thousands of people are fleeing to India as refugees every day. Hence, there is an urgent need to impress upon the Sri Lankan Government to stop air bombardment and shelling of civilian areas in the Northern and the Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. LTTE must also be restrained from resorting to provocative actions of spoiling the irrigation water systems at Muthur in Trincomalee.

Cessation of hostilities must be followed in letter and spirit by both the parties. Ending of this ethnic hostilities must be achieved through negotiations. Through diplomatic channels and through political means, Government of India must evolved ways and means to ensure that Sri Lanka

is not driven to become a civil-war-torn country. On behalf of CPI(M), I would like to urge upon the Union Government to facilitate a situation to settle amicably through peaceful political negotiations.

---

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, on behalf of the DMK Party, we would like to associate ourselves with the matter raised by Shri P. Mohan. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri A.V. Bellarmin, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shrimati V. Radhika Selvi, Shri E.G. Sugavanam and Shri Ramdas Athawale are also associating with the matter raised by Shri P. Mohan.